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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 ACDA-19 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 L-03 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

SAJ-01 DRC-01 /110 W
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P R 031854Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1543
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05429

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, EEC, NATO, GW
SUBJECT: EUROPE IN AFTERMATH OF POMPIDOU DEATH: INITIAL
FRG VIEWS

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE HAVE OBTAINED INITIAL FRG FONOFF
REACTION TO SITUATION IN EUROPE AND U.S./EUROPEAN
RELATIONS FOLLOWING APRIL 1-2 LUXEMBOURG EC COUNCIL
MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT DEATH OF POMPIDOU. SENIOR GERMAN
OFFICIAL, WHO IS INTIMATE ADVISOR OF FOREIGN MINISTER
SCHEEL, BELIEVES COOLING OFF PERIOD WILL NOW ENSUE
WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, MAY EXPOSE NEW BRITISH
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GOVERNMENT TO "SOME OF THE REALITIES IN EUROPE." FONOFF

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SOURCE EXPECTS, AND REGRETS, THAT U.S./WEST EUROPEAN
RELATIONSHIP WILL IN THE COMING MONTHS TAKE ON AN
INCREASINGLY BILATERAL AS OPPOSED TO MULTILATERAL
CHARACTER. GERMAN OFFICIAL SAID HE THOUGHT GISCARD
WOULD RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY AND WOULD HAVE A REASONABLY
GOOD CHANCE TO WIN ON THE SECOND TOUR. END SUMMARY

1. VISITING ACDA COUNSELOR NEWHOUSE, ACCOMPANIED BY
EMBOFF, MET APRIL 3 WITH FONOFF POLICY PLANNING STAFF
CHIEF GUIDO BRUNNER FOR DISCUSSION OF CURRENT SITUATION
IN EUROPE AND U.S./EUROPEAN RELATIONS. WE ARE REPORTING
BY SEPTELS ON BRUNNER'S RELATED COMMENTS CONCERNING
CSCE AND CURRENT STATE OF EAST-WEST DETENTE.

2. IN COMMENTING ON STATE OF WESTERN EUROPE FOLLOWING
LUXEMBOURG COUNCIL MEETING AND DEATH OF PRESIDENT
POMPIDOU, BRUNNER SAID IT IS NECESSARY TO RECOGNIZE THAT
EXTREMELY DIFFICULT PERIOD LIES AHEAD, IN WHICH,
AT LEAST FOR AWHILE NOTHING POSITIVE WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED
IN THE FIELD OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. THIS ALREADY WAS
CLEAR TO THE GERMANS FOLLOWING THE CALLAGHAN VISIT TO
BONN AND THE PROFOUNDLY NEGATIVE COMMENTS ON THE EC AT
THE ANGLO-GERMAN KOENIGSWINTER CONFERENCE LAST WEEKEND
IN SCOTLAND. THE SHARP TONE OF CALLAGHAN'S COMMENTS IN
LUXEMBOURG, AND JOBERT'S EQUALLY TART REACTION, REMOVED
ALL DOUBTS.

3. IN THIS PROSPECTIVE, AMBASSADOR BRUNNER THOUGHT
TWO POSSIBLE POSITIVE POLITICAL EFFECTS MIGHT OCCUR IN
THE AFTERMATH OF POMPIDOU'S DEATH. THE PASSING OF THE
FRENCH LEADER WOULD SERVE TO ILLUMINATE AND DRAMATIZE
THE SERIOUSNESS OF CURRENT COMMUNITY CRISIS AND INDICATE
THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO BE GUIDED BY A SENSE OF CAUTION.
SECONDLY, A KIND OF COOLING OFF PERIOD WOULD BE LIKELY
TO DEVELOP, IN WHICH MAJOR NEW INITIATIVES AND
COMPLICATED NEGOTIATING PROCESSES WOULD HAVE TO BE
DEFERRED. BRUNNER THOUGHT THIS MIGHT GIVE THE NEW
BRITISH GOVERNMENT TIME TO OBTAIN A BETTER GRASP OF THE
REALITIES IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND OF THE
MUTUAL INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE EC STATES UPON ONE ANOTHER,
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PARTICULARLY IN THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AREA. GIVEN
THE FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY PITFALLS AHEAD FOR
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE UK NEED FOR GERMAN
COOPERATION,
A COOLING OFF PERIOD MIGHT HAVE A
TEMPERING EFFECT ON INITIAL SHARP UK DEMANDS. IN
SHORT, BRUNNER BELIEVES THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION MAY
TEND TO DIMINISH WILSON'S ROOM FOR MANEUVER IN THE

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EC RENEGOTIATION.

4. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM NEWHOUSE, BRUNNER ALSO PROVIDED HIS VIEW ON UPCOMING ELECTION FOR FRENCH PRESIDENCY. BRUNNER EXPECTED THAT THERE WOULD BE THREE CANDIDATES - CHABAN-DELMAS, GISCARD D'ESTAING AND MITTERAND. DESPITE POSSIBLE DANGERS OF SPLITTING THE NON-LEFTIST VOTE, BRUNNER SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT GISCARD WOULD NOT PASS UP THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO

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ACTION EUR-25

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 05429

RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE UNLIKELI-

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HOOD OF THE GAULLISTS EVER WILLINGLY GRANTING HIM THEIR ENDORSEMENT. BRUNNER THOUGHT THAT, IN SUCH A THREE WAY RACE, MITTERAND WOULD TAKE THE MOST VOTES BUT WOULD FALL SHORT OF AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN THE FIRST TOUR. BRUNNER EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT GISCARD WOULD HAVE A REASONABLY GOOD CHANCE TO COME IN SECOND, AHEAD OF CHABAN, AND THEN TO WIN THE PRESIDENCY IN THE RUN OFF. IN BRUNNER'S VIEW, CHABAN WOULD BE LIKELY TO COME OUT THIRD. HE SAID THE ELECTION COMES AT THE WRONG TIME FOR THE GAULLISTS, WHO HAD IN THE RECENT MONTHS SOUGHT TO GO BACK TO THEIR FUNDAMENTALIST

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DOCTRINES IN AN EFFORT TO POLARIZE THE POLITICAL SCENE BETWEEN THE LEFTISTS (READ-COMMUNISTS) AND THE GAULLISTS (READ-SAFE GOVERNMENT). BRUNNER THOUGHT THE ELECTION COMES AT A PARTICULARLY BAD TIME FOR CHABAN, WHO HAS NOT HAD THE TIME TO POLISH UP SUFFICIENTLY HIS POLITICAL IMAGE.

5. IN COMMENTING ON THE POSSIBLE POLICIES OF THESE THREE POTENTIAL CANDIDATES, BRUNNER SAID HE THOUGHT THAT BOTH GISCARD AND CHABAN WOULD WISH TO FOLLOW POLICY MORE FAVORABLE TO EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, CHABAN, MORE THAN GISCARD, WOULD BE IN A POSITION OF HAVING TO LOOK OVER HIS SHOULDER AT THE GAULLIST FUNDAMENTALISTS. WHILE MITTERAND HAD ALLEGEDLY MATURED SOMEWHAT POLITICALLY, BRUNNER OBSERVED THAT HE WOULD BE IN A TOUGH POSITION IN TERMS OF STABLE SUPPORT IN THE FRENCH ASSEMBLY, AS HIS COALITION WITH THE COMMUNISTS IS AN ELECTORAL RATHER THAN A PROGRAMATIC ONE.

6. BRUNNER SAID IT NOW SEEMED CLEAR THAT U.S./WEST EUROPEAN RELATIONS WOULD TAKE AN INCREASINGLY BILATERAL RATHER THAN MULTILATERAL FORM--IN THE FIELD OF CONSUL-TATIONS AND IN OTHER WAYS. WHILE BRUNNER VERY MUCH REGRETED THIS TREND, IT SEEMED TO BE THE WAY THINGS WOULD GO, AT LEAST FOR THE SHORT RUN.

ON THE OTHER HAND, BRUNNER DID NOT TAKE JOBERT'S "NON" IN LUXEMBOURG AS A DEFINITIVE ANSWER ON CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U.S. OR FURTHER PROGRESS IN EUORPE. BUT A COOLING OFF PERIOD WOULD BE REQUIRED AS A PRECONDITION FOR FURTHER PROGRESS ON EITHER OF THESE TWO MATTERS.

7. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, ANOTHER SENIOR FRG OFFICIAL CONCURRED IN BRUNNER'S ESTIMATE THAT EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC RELATIONS WOULD IN THE SHORT RUN TAKE ON INCREASINGLY BILATERAL CHARACTER. THIS OFFICIAL, WITH

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RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE DEFENSE AREA, SAID THE KEY
TASKS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD ARE TO SHORE UP THE ATLANTIC
RELATIONSHIP AND TO MAINTAIN BILATERAL BALANCE
WITHIN WESTERN EUROPE. HE SAID THE GERMANS ALSO FELT
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THE NEED TO PROVIDE A SENSE OF PARTNERSHIP TO THE
SMALLER EC-9 AND NATO ALLIES. HE ADDED THE VIEW THAT
THE GERMANS SHOULD ALSO SPEAK UP MORE IN URGING
THESE SMALLER NATO ALLIES TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THEIR
NATIONAL DEFENSE EFFORTS IN THE INTEREST OF ALLIANCE
VIABILITY.
HILLENBRAND

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